



It is a sad fact that the number of children and young people who said that they enjoyed reading (in the original survey, completed March 2020) was the lowest in the fifteen years that the survey has been running. However, there was a significant increase during lockdown although the gender gap, in favour of girls, also significantly increased. It is true that those who enjoyed reading before tended to report more enjoyment now but there is some evidence that reluctant readers also found increased enjoyment in reading.

As a school we encourage parents and carers to support their children with reading at home. Now, more than ever, it is vital that schools can call on parents and carers if we are to recover the ground lost to the coronavirus and give all our students the best chance of realising their dreams. Young people told the NLT;

"I enjoy reading more because I am able to read every day to my parents."

"[I] enjoy reading to grandparents over video calls. Also as I have a new reading corner in my bedroom..."

The biggest challenge lies with our KS3 students (years 7-9), where there is a nationally recognised disengagement with reading, even without a pandemic impacting on our lives.

I shall return to explore their findings in more detail in future newsletters.

One of their reports focusses on diversity – seeing yourself in what you read. It is vital that students are able to engage with books that reflect their images and lives, whether that is by reading books by authors of diverse backgrounds or by the subject matter of the books available to them.

Some of the titles selected for the Tutor Reading Programme were chosen to reflect the diversity, heritage and reality of the lives of our student body and that may occasionally prove challenging. When the opportunity presents itself to renew and reinvigorate our library stock I hope to increase the availability of titles which allow students to 'see themselves in what they read'.

## **Missing Library Books**

If the library is to expand its offering to students it is vital that the funds can be used to purchase new titles rather than filling gaps left by missing books.

The holidays offer a great opportunity to search for titles borrowed during lockdown and now laying, neglected and unread, on shelves, surfaces, in cupboards or under beds!

As the Literacy Trust report details, access to books is essential and, for many, the school library is their only source of reading material.

The library is missing copies of:

Treehouse series by Andy Griffiths (new to the library in 2020)

A Series of Unfortunate Events set by Lemony Snicket (new to the library in 2020)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney

Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon

Beast Quest series by Adam Blake

Dork Diaries series by Rachel Renee Russell

Titles by Eoin Colfer, Philip Pullman, J.K. Rowling

This list is by no means complete but gives you an idea of what may be lurking, forgotten, in your child's room.

## Accelerated Reader -Years 7 and 8

Just a reminder about access for home quizzing using the link on the school website, via the quick links button, or using <https://ukhosted31.renlearn.co.uk/6010376/>

**Please do not google it as our unique number does not come up and you will go to the wrong site.**

Please contact me if you or your child has a problem accessing the site. The commonest reasons for problems are using the wrong site or not entering the password correctly. I do check the site regularly outside of school hours and release any locked accounts.

## Competitions and resources

The NLT, in partnership with Turner and Townsend, are launching a 'We wonder: Mission to Mars' competition early in January. This is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Reading challenge with the ultimate goal of designing a survival home on Mars.

More details in the new year.

The Costa Short Story Award 2020 shortlist is released on 13<sup>th</sup> January with the winner announced on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

The National Storytelling Week begins on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

It is always worth checking <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/virtual-school-library> - recently they have serialised The Fowl Twins, with new instalments every day. Check it on a Monday so you don't miss out.



A Visit from St. Nicholas by Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through  
the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

## English Department request

GCSE texts and resources – if any students have unwanted English texts and/or revision guides the department would be pleased to receive them. Thank you.

Enjoy the holiday

Mrs. Morley - Librarian

Remember - **Always be internet safety aware.**